



THE BULLETIN

AUGUST 2000

Announcing the 1013th Monthly Meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

8:00 PM, Wednesday, August 23, 2000

Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval at 38th Avenue, San Francisco



ANA Adventures

Featuring a talk by David Evans

*Members are asked to bring items relating to the topic,
recent acquisitions, or other items of interest.*

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CALENDAR

Numismatic Meetings and Events

- August 20, Sunday Fremont Coin Club Annual Show
Information (510) 792-1511
- ❖ August 23, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- August 26-7, Sat.-Sun. CSNA 107th Convention & Golden State Coin Show
Arcadia Masonic Temple, Information (619) 222-8739
- September 24, Sunday Fairfield Coin and Collectibles Show
Information (707) 435-8751
- ❖ September 27, Wednesday 8PM **PCNS Monthly Meeting**
Knights of Columbus Hall, 2800 Taraval, San Francisco
- October 3, Tuesday 7:15PM Liberty Numismatic Society Annual Book Sale
Millbrae Public Library, Library Drive at Magnolia
- ❖ November 4, Saturday CSNA Educational Symposium
First Northern California Edition, Hosted by PCNS (See the back page for details)

If members know of numismatic events which should be included in this calendar, please provide details to *The Bulletin* editor: Stephen Huston 1-510-475-8624

We will list timely events of numismatic interest as space allows.

SYMPOSIUM, LITERARY CONTEST, PPIE AUCTION

Elsewhere in this mailing please find details of the plans for:

- CSNA Numismatic Symposium (back page of this Bulletin)
- Literary Contest (enclosed page), and
- PPIE Auction proposal (mailed only to active members)

PRISON TOKENS — JULY PROGRAM REPORT

Sarah and Phil Nordin presented a wonderful introductory program on collecting Prison Tokens at our July meeting. In addition to being a brand new topic for most members, this was the first entirely computer-generated program PCNS has had (the computer presentation was projected directly from their portable computer onto our screen).

Prison tokens were created as a means of affording the convenience of small amounts of money within the prison systems without the risks of cash. Cash would have created security problems including bribing guards and providing escapees with money which could be used in the civilian world.

The Nordins presented a sampling of their finds, including some previously-unreported types and varieties. They also passed along stories about specific prisons, such as the problems which resulted from having convicts help to build San Quentin. (Prisoners hid tools inside cell walls during construction, affording dozens of them with the means of escaping after the prison went into regular use.)

They pointed out that lack of currency (including tokens) has resulted in a far-reaching barter system inside prisons — Tootsie Rolls are used in gambling and cigarettes are a common currency.

The first prison token they acquired when starting out was a quarter-sized \$5 token from Kinross Correctional Facility. Most prison tokens are made of very cheap materials such as plastic, aluminum and brass; no items of real intrinsic value are employed to avoid the problems associated with regular cash.

They cited Jerry Zara's *Prison Tokens and Medals of the United States* as the basic reference used by collectors of this series.

Prison tokens were provided at the state or local level, so they are common from some regions and non-existent in others. Michigan has 266 tokens listed while Montana produced only 1 token which was never issued for use.

Tokens from Parchman were sometimes called "Blood Money" because the only way to earn them was for a prisoner to donate blood.

Some corporations got into the act by providing tokens for prisons in exchange for advertising; both Pepsi and Coca Cola have their names on prison tokens.

Neither Alcatraz nor any women's prison is known to have issued tokens. Alcatraz never had a commissary, so had no use for them.

The program was informative and well-illustrated with pictures of many tokens and the prisons which issued them. Sarah and Phil capped off the evening with an exhibit case of many of the pieces and few other bits of prison memorabilia. Then they became the newest members of PCNS. Thank you for a job well done and Welcome!

EXHIBITORS IN JULY

Thanks to the following guests and members for sharing items in July: Mark Clark, Gordon Donnell, David Evans, Paul Holtzman, Herb Miles, Phil & Sarah Nordin, George Proctor, Larry & Lori Reppeteau, Elliot Wehner and his father.

NUMISMATIC



SYMPOSIUM

**The First CSNA Educational Symposium in Northern California
Hosted by the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**

10:00AM Saturday, November 4, 2000

Alumni House

University of California, Berkeley

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society is pleased to host the first California State Numismatic Association's Educational Symposium to be held in Northern California. For this inaugural event, four nationally noted numismatists have agreed to speak on their areas of expertise. They include:

Stephen Huston *Ancient Egyptian Numismatics: Political Scoundrels & Civil War*

Wendell Wolka *Dysfunctional Commerce — 1850s Style*

Dr. Donald Kagin *The Treasury Notes of the War of 1812 — Our Nation's First Circulating Currency*

Bob Campbell *Mormon Gold*

Registration is free so mark your calendars today to attend this exciting numismatic event! Advance registration by October 28 enters you into a drawing for the new PCNS medal set. (You must be present to win.)

A box lunch is available for \$10 but must be reserved by October 28.

Directions to the Alumni House and public transportation details may be found at on the web at www.pcns.org or by emailing or writing PCNS at:



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Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Annual Papers Contest

PCNS is accepting entries for its 2001 Papers Contest. Submissions must be previously unpublished original writing on a numismatic topic. Participation is open to all. Original research, insights, clarification, overview, and introductory articles are all encouraged. The following guidelines are offered as suggestions, but all submissions will be considered. Participants may submit more than one paper (see Awards).

1. Papers should be electronically submitted as either a plain text file, an MS Word file or through the PCNS web site (www.pcns.org). Participants who lack electronic access may contact the society for other arrangements.

2. Papers should include (on a title page) the title of the paper, authors name, address, phone number and email address (for contact, not for publication).

3. All illustrations (photos, charts, tables, drawings, etc.) which are appropriate for publication should accompany the text, complete with any captions or descriptions which are needed for their interpretation and understanding by readers. If the illustrations are not imbedded in the document electronically, notes within the text should indicate where illustrations are placed (e.g. figure 3 here).

4. Quotes must be properly credited. Material taken from any published work should be cited in footnotes. If appropriate, a bibliography or reference list of related books should be included at the end of the paper.

5. First Publication Rights: PCNS obtains all rights to first publication/ distribution of submissions, including all accompanying illustrations. The paper may not be under consideration for publication elsewhere and may not be submitted elsewhere before PCNS has published it during the year for which it was submitted. All papers must be free of copyright restrictions, including all photos, drawings and other illustrative material. Please be aware of this when selecting illustrations for your paper. Publication on the PCNS web site is anticipated. Authors may decline Internet publication if desired.

6. Length of papers is not specific, but generally papers should be at least two double-spaced pages of type (not counting title page, illustrations, and bibliography). Longer papers are acceptable, but writers who are contemplating papers in excess of 12 double-spaced pages of text are cautioned that space limitations may affect our ability to publish it.

Deadline for submissions: all papers for the 2001 papers contest should be submitted by February 1, 2001.

Judging will be done by a panel of at least three judges selected by the Papers Chairperson. Judges will be directed to consider the following in making their recommendations: contribution to numismatics, clarity, and interest.

Awards will be presented at the PCNS annual banquet. Only a single award can be presented to a participant each year. All participants will be recognized in print, and all papers which are selected for publication will be included in both the PCNS annual publication and on the PCNS web site. The first prize recipient will receive an engraved silver PCNS medal. Runners up will receive a similar medal in bronze. The publication will be distributed to all members of PCNS as part of their membership benefits.

Proposed Plan for the Auction of PCNS PPIE Collection Materials

- 1) The auction will be a three-part auction, a mail bid section, a live section and an internet section.
- 2) The purpose of the mail bid and live auctions are to provide a reserve bid for the internet auction.
- 3) The live auction will be performed at a regularly scheduled PCNS meeting, mail bids must be received prior to that meeting. If an item receives a mail bid, the bidding at the live auction will be started at 10% above the highest mail bid.
- 4) Upon completion of the live auction, items will be placed for bids on ebay as a 10 day auction set to conclude prior to the next regular PCNS meeting. To provide some protection for the successful live auction bidders, a reserve bid will be set 10% higher than the result from the live auction. The opening bid will be \$0.01 and reserve bids will not be revealed under any circumstances prior to the completion of the ebay auction. If bidding on the ebay item does not reach the reserve bid, the item will be sold to the winner of the mail bid and live auctions.
- 5) At the conclusion of the live auction, successful bidders may raise their bids so that the ebay reserve bid is higher. This would then be the selling price if the reserve is not met on ebay.
- 6) All postage and insurance costs are paid for by the buyers. All ebay fees are paid for by PCNS.

August 2000 Proposal